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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,187	03/10/2004	Ker-Min Lin	pusa040328	8616
23595	7590	02/01/2006	EXAMINER	
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A. 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH SUITE 820 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			JOHNSON, BLAIR M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3634	

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/800,187	LIN, KER-MIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Blair M. Johnson	3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1,2,7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van der Zanden in view of Cheng.

See headrail 12, having horizontal slats extended therefrom transmission mechanism having a tube 52 supporting a roller 54, drive mechanism 44 having a motor 38 and gearing 44 which includes several gears that include a drive gear, a driven gear and gears (driving member) therebetween. See attachment bracket 36. The cover of claim 7 is the end wall of the housing, 50. Cheng discloses a simple tube connection 46 and it would have been an obvious expedient to replace the connection 48 of van der Zanden to be of this equivalent structure. Regarding the "support", see the wall of the gear housing that has an aperture for bearing the shaft tube 48 (as amended by Cheng).

Claims 6,8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van der Zanden in view of Bullat.

Bullat discloses an endless drive member 66 for a blind, thereby teaching that such is suitable for blind structures. It would have been obvious to replace the drive gearing of van der Zanden with such a belt/chain, etc., system so as to achieve the advantages of such transmissions. The ball type belt, chain, and toothed belt are all mechanical expedients of the endless drive taught by Bullat and would have been obvious replacements based on their individual features.

Claims 1-4,7,9,13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welfonder in view of van der Zanden and Cheng.

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Welfonder discloses a detachable, via a bracket, drive mechanism 4 to engage the transmission 2 of a headrail, such being suitable for a horizontal blind system, column 14, lines 19-20. While he does state that it could be used for a horizontal system, he does not further disclose such structure. Consequently, van der Zanden is cited merely to show a roller mounted on a shaft for raising and lower the slats. It would have been obvious to provide Welfonder with such conventional horizontal shade elements. As with van der Zanden above, a gearing is present that meets the claim limitations, with drive wheel 48, and driving mechanism 12 which drives a transmission that protrudes from the headrail 2 and is covered by detachable covers 58,44. While the drive bracket 26 is not U-shaped, leaving the top off thereof would have been obvious to reduce weight, etc. See cover 54.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welfonder in view of van der Zanden and Cheng, as applied above, and further in view of Popat.

The use of a hook member to attach a drive system to a headrail is taught by Popat and it would have been obvious to replace the attachment system of Welfonder with such a hook system so as to ease attachment and detachment.

Claims 6,8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welfonder in view of van der Zanden and Cheng as applied above, and further in view of Bullat.

Bullat is applied here as above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding van der Zanden, the gears are clearly "wheels". The motor 3 is parallel, not perpendicular, to the headrail 12, etc. The "support" is the aperture/bearing in the gear housing and the driven wheel clearly protrudes from this "support". The drive wheel and the driven wheel are clearly "juxtaposed". Regarding Welfonder, as discussed above, see driving member 12. The "support" is met by the structure, such as in Figs. 8,9, which support the driven wheel, such as 60.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

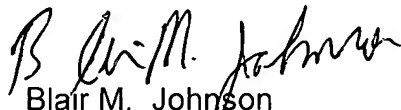
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blair M. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (571) 272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Blair M. Johnson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

BMJ
1/30/06